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United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

United Nations support is one of the main dimensions of the international community's contribution to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The present report provides an overview of activities undertaken by entities of the United Nations system since May 2009 in support of NEPAD. The overview is prepared according to the nine clusters established under the Regional Coordination Mechanism of the United Nations agencies working in Africa convened by the Economic Commission for Africa.

The report stresses the need for the United Nations entities to develop an evaluation framework assessing the impact of their support in the implementation of the African Union/NEPAD programme. The report calls for a collective response by the United Nations entities to prevent the global economic crisis from becoming a humanitarian and social crisis in Africa.

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I. Introduction

1. At its forty-fifth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report to the Committee, at its forty-sixth session, and annually thereafter, on the support by the United Nations system to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/60/16, para. 237). The request was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/229.

II. Support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

2. The report describes the activities that the United Nations system has undertaken in support of NEPAD since May 2009, drawing on inputs received from the individual entities. This support has been organized around the nine thematic clusters corresponding to the priorities of NEPAD.

A. Infrastructure development

3. The infrastructure cluster comprises four sub-clusters: water, energy, information and communications technology (ICT) and transport. The water, energy and ICT sub-clusters have established inter-agency coordination mechanisms that allow the agencies to deliver as one (UN-Water/Africa, UN-Energy/Africa, the United Nations Group on the Information Society and the United Nations Geospatial Information Working Group). Furthermore, the sub-clusters cooperate with the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency[1] and related sectoral ministerial conferences.

4. UN-Water/Africa, chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), co-organized the Second African Water Week in Johannesburg, South Africa, in November 2009, which discussed regional water initiatives and the implementation of the Sharm El Sheikh Commitments on Water and Sanitation adopted by African Heads of State in July 2008. The Second Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water, also held in November 2009 in Johannesburg, provided an opportunity for development partners to express commitment to the activities of the African Ministers' Council on Water. UNEP provided technical and financial support to the Bureau of the Council and the consultative processes of its technical advisory committee.

5. In water resource management, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) uses isotope hydrology techniques to help African countries in exploitation and management of groundwater and surface water resources. IAEA technical cooperation projects are implemented in partnerships with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP and the Global Environment Facility. Through a regional project, IAEA has also been supporting the introduction of

[1] The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency was established by the Decision of the fourteenth African Union Assembly at its meeting of 1 and 2 February 2010, as a technical body of the African Union in replacement of the NEPAD secretariat.

isotope hydrology for exploration and management of geothermal resources in the East African Rift Valley System.

6. The World Bank supports the NEPAD infrastructure short-term action plan through provision of financing for regional investment projects and multi-donor trust funds. Projects approved and under consideration include the West Africa Power Pool (phase II), for the construction of a 60 mw hydroelectric generation facility that will be connected to the Pool grid, the Central Africa Backbone Project, for preparation of physical infrastructure investments in Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad, and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community Transport and Transit Facilitation Project, for the rehabilitation and the construction of additional road, rail and bridge segments in Cameroon and the Central African Republic.

7. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs capacity-building project for interregional electricity access and supply in Africa aims to strengthen regional and national capacity to establish the appropriate policy, institutional and regulatory frameworks for regional electricity grid interconnection, in order to increase access to electricity and security of supply. Project implementation is being undertaken in cooperation with the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa, and the technical secretariats of power pools.

8. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is supporting the establishment of the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The objective of the Centre is to coordinate regional projects and programmes that seek to establish and operationalize markets for renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and services in ECOWAS. UNIDO also continues to implement a number of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in different countries.

9. In 2009 the World Trade Organization organized, in Zambia, a high-level aid for trade review and conference on the North-South Corridor. The North-South Corridor Pilot Aid for Trade Programme is a joint Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa-East African Community-Southern African Development Community initiative aimed at improving the state of physical transport infrastructure and the regulatory environment for trade and transport.

10. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) developed and disseminated model safety regulations for non-conventional-sized craft and fishing vessels in order to assist countries in reducing the number of accidents on inland waterways. IMO also provided technical assistance to African countries in reviewing and drafting maritime legislation, and setting up an effective maritime administration. Furthermore, IMO has continued to evaluate the existing infrastructure in coastal countries to assist them in the establishment of international search and rescue procedures and maritime rescue coordination centres. As a result of IMO support over the past two years, about 600 officials from various administrations and authorities have benefited from training seminars and have now enhanced human capacity to ensure safe, secure and efficient maritime transport.

11. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) security audits continued to contribute to the improvement of safety and security of international

civil aviation. During the reporting period, five safety oversight audits of African States were conducted, bringing the total number of audits in Africa to 44.

12. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) developed and implemented several infrastructure projects across African countries such as the wireless broadband infrastructure project and the establishment of "multipurpose community telecentre" projects for marginalized communities. Jointly with ECOWAS, ITU has facilitated collaboration between countries to connect their national backbone infrastructure to submarine fibre-optic cables.

B. Governance

13. The governance cluster is organized around political governance and economic and corporate governance, and it supports the African Peer Review Mechanism process.

14. UNDP continued to provide technical support to NEPAD's governing bodies such as the NEPAD Steering Committee, the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee and the African Peer Review Mechanism, and has facilitated their policy formulation work. As the manager of a multi-donor trust fund for the Mechanism, UNDP facilitated financial support from partners to build the capacity of the Mechanism secretariat and to conduct its activities, including the country reviews. The Economic Commission for Africa provided substantial resources to the Mechanism Panel of Eminent Persons, the APRM secretariat and the participating countries, as well as supporting them in mobilizing stakeholder participation and fostering peer learning.

15. The Economic Commission for Africa continued to promote good governance practices in all sectors of society, including through expansion of its project on assessing and monitoring progress towards good governance in Africa. This project produced the second edition of the *African Governance Report* in 2009, which assists African countries to develop and internalize the norms of good governance within the public and private realms, enhance analysis and disseminate information and best practices.

16. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs has supported the establishment of an institutional mechanism for building the professional capacities of human resource managers in the public service, namely the Africa Public Sector Human Resource Managers' Network, launched in February 2009 in Arusha. The overall objective of the Network is to provide human resource managers in the public sector with a networking platform for advocacy, human resources management, professional development and knowledge sharing.

17. Under the auspices of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, the Capacity Development for Pro-Poor Private Sector-led Growth through Enhancing Corporate Governance Project is implemented in Ghana by UNDP and the Private Enterprise Foundation in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the African Peer Review Mechanism country review report. The initiative provided technical assistance to strengthen the public sector regulatory framework for pro-poor private sector development and to develop the capacity of the private sector for enhanced growth through improved corporate governance.

C. Peace and security

18. The peace and security cluster comprises the following sub-clusters: peace and security architecture of the African Union; post-conflict reconstruction and development; and human rights, justice and reconciliation. The cluster has made further efforts to consolidate capacity-building activities in the areas of early warning, conflict prevention, mediation, elections and cross-border issues, which are aimed at deepening the strategic partnership with the African Union and subregional organizations in Africa.

19. The Department of Political Affairs is fully engaged with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in implementing a mutually agreed cooperation programme on conflict prevention. The Department of Political Affairs and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region have been cooperating with the secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The objective is to help the 11 countries of the International Conference achieve the Pact on Stability, Security and Development in the Great Lakes Region and transform the region into a space for sustainable peace and security through a regional framework for conflict prevention and resolution.

20. The Department of Political Affairs addresses cross-cutting and cross-border issues, such as the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking through its regional offices. Under the leadership of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the West Africa Coast Initiative, an inter-agency project aimed at establishing transnational crime units in four pilot countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone) to enhance intelligence gathering and law enforcement capacities of national institutions, was set up in 2009.

21. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has supported the operational development of the African Peace and Security Architecture, in particular the African Standby Force through the Department of Peacekeeping Operations African Union Peacekeeping Support Team. The Department has also contributed to the development of the Continental Early Warning System through cooperation between its Situation Centre and the African Union Situation Room.

22. In connection with the comprehensive review of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318), the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa has been conducting consultations with United Nations system agencies and other partners. In December 2009, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the United Nations Liaison Office to the African Union organized, in Addis Ababa, an Expert Group Meeting on the theme "Bridging the peace and development nexus, the role and capacities of African regional and subregional organizations". The Meeting examined the functional and operational aspects and capacity-building needs of the subregional organizations to appropriately address the peace and development agendas and how to engage with the regional economic communities on a regular basis in the implementation of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union.

23. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa convened an Expert Group Meeting on the theme "African perspectives on international terrorism" in Addis

Ababa in June 2009. Participants emphasized the importance of addressing issues of terrorism and counter-terrorism in the context of other complex challenges facing Africa, in particular drug trafficking, small arms and light weapons, civil wars, post-conflict reconstruction, poverty and underdevelopment. The Meeting led to a series of recommendations, including strengthening cooperation between the African Union and regional institutions, and between African institutions and the United Nations, in the context of implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the African Union counter-terrorism framework.

24. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime focused on supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action for Africa (2006-2010) on strengthening the rule of law and the criminal justice systems in Africa, and the African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012), by strengthening policymaking, norm-setting and capacity-building at the continental, regional and national levels.

25. The Peacebuilding Commission remained engaged in supporting peace consolidation in the four African countries on its agenda: Burundi, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. It also deepened its partnership with the African Union Commission through the visit of a high-level Peacebuilding Commission delegation to the African Union Commission headquarters in November 2009. The Peacebuilding Fund currently provides funding for peacebuilding activities in 11 African countries.

26. Following a request by the African Union Executive Council, the sub-cluster on post-conflict reconstruction and development, chaired by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), supported the African Union in the development of a binding legal instrument for the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and preparations for the first African Union special summit on refugees, returnees and IDPs. The activities included advocacy, substantive and institutional support in the preparation of background and conference papers, and the mobilization of resources.

27. The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) new MicroLead facility has a "fast-disbursing" window specifically designed for post-conflict conditions, which was piloted last year in Southern Sudan. Seven of the nine MicroLead grants executed by the end of 2009 were in Africa, amounting to $13.6 million. These grantees will be working with a total of 430,000 new depositors and 470,000 new borrowers by the end of 2013. MicroLead expects to award additional grants in Africa in the first half of 2010.

D. Agriculture, food security and rural development

28. The cluster supports efforts to increase food security and agricultural development in Africa, through the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Efforts of the cluster have contributed to the acceptance of CAADP by major development partners and the United Nations system as a framework for the delivery of food security and agricultural development assistance. During the last two years, 13 countries and ECOWAS have concluded their country round-table process and signed a compact. Five of them have already embarked on formulating investment programmes with

the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) support for funding.

29. Political, technical and financial support for CAADP emerged as a key outcome of the Group of Eight (G-8) Summit at L'Aquila, Italy, in July 2009. The principles set forth in L'Aquila were further endorsed at the World Summit on Food Security organized in Rome, in November 2009, by FAO, in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP). The Declaration adopted pledged to support CAADP, recognizing it as an effective vehicle for ensuring that resources are targeted to country plans and priorities. It was therefore adopted as the framework for the implementation of L'Aquila Food Security Initiative.

30. The secretariat of the High-Level Task Force on Global Food Security, whose members include FAO, IFAD, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WFP, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, is hosted by IFAD in Rome. During the reporting period, the work of the Senior Steering Group of the Task Force focused on the follow-up to the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, where NEPAD and CAADP are expected to be the biggest beneficiaries of the $20 billion pledged at the G-8 summit in L'Aquila. FAO, in collaboration with some members of the Task Force, is assisting Benin, Togo and Sierra Leone to operationalize their CAADP compacts by formulating investment programmes and projects ready for financing from domestic and external resources.

31. The World Bank has been administering a multi-donor trust fund for the implementation of the CAADP since 2008. This collaborative effort has resulted in a significant harmonization in donor support for CAADP processes and investment programmes. A separate trust fund administered by the World Bank has been established specifically to support the regional institutions responsible for implementation of pillar IV of CAADP: agricultural research.

32. The World Bank West Africa Regional Fisheries Programme aims at the sustainable management of regional fisheries and increasing local revenues from the fisheries trade. The East Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme established a new regional centre of excellence for agricultural research focused on cassava and region-wide dissemination of improved seed varieties and technologies. FAO, the Economic Commission for Africa and UNIDO have been collaborating on a capacity-building project for sustainable modernization of agriculture and rural transformation. Its best practices for selected African strategic commodities were assessed in West Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa, using the value chain approach.

33. WFP support to NEPAD continued to focus on key NEPAD priority areas, such as boosting agricultural production by providing market access to locally produced food to support school feeding and health programmes, under the auspices of the NEPAD Home-Grown School Feeding flagship project; leveraging WFP local food procurement capacity to enhance market access for smallholder farmers by, inter alia, buying food closer to the farm gate; and promoting food and nutritional

security through enhancing resilience in food crises through establishing reliable food-reserve systems.

34. The WFP five-year Purchase for Progress pilot project launched in September 2008 links WFP demand for staple food commodities with the technical expertise of a wide range of partners to support smallholder farmers boost agricultural production, sell their surplus at a fair price and increase their annual farming incomes. This initiative is being implemented on a pilot basis in 15 African countries in partnership with FAO and other United Nations agencies and the African Union. By the end of 2009, 33,300 tons of food had been contracted from 10 countries and 6,000 smallholder farmers, small and medium traders and warehouse operators had been trained.

35. WFP is providing technical support to the African Union/NEPAD in the design of a pan-African disaster risk pool for Member States to draw upon for immediate cash in the event of an extreme drought, flood or cyclone. To this extent, WFP has developed a software platform, Africa RiskView, which translates satellite-based rainfall data into near real time food security impacts for every first-level administrative district for every country in sub-Saharan Africa.

36. The African Task Force on Food and Nutrition Development, the African Union Commission and its NEPAD programme, regional economic communities, UNICEF, WHO, FAO and WFP met in Addis Ababa in November 2009 to harmonize the implementation of the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (2005-2015) in order to address emerging nutrition issues such as increasing cases of hunger and famine and high food prices; developed a workplan that focuses on three main areas; coordination and resource mobilization; nutrition information and knowledge management; and capacity development in food and nutrition. The African Union Commission and WHO organized an expert consultative meeting on the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy, which resulted in high-level commitment to address malnutrition in Africa through a multisectoral approach. Subsequent to the meeting WHO and UNICEF collaborated in supporting policy development, capacity-building and advocacy in the region to address malnutrition and food insecurity.

37. IAEA assistance in the area of agricultural productivity is provided through national and regional projects in the areas of animal production, pest control, crop productivity, and soil and water management. IAEA is providing significant assistance to develop a regional capability of veterinary laboratories for the control of animal diseases and enhance the application of appropriate selection criteria for genetically improved livestock. The signing of a memorandum of understanding between IAEA and the African Union Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign in November 2009 marks the recognition of the need to improve the coordination of the respective activities of the two organizations. Under regional crop improvement projects, 17 African Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology Member States are working on the improvement of traditional crops that have not yet benefited from conventional breeding techniques.

E. Industry, trade and market access

38. The cluster continued supporting African regional and subregional organizations in strengthening their capacity to lead the development, resource

mobilization, implementation and monitoring of African Union/NEPAD programmes and projects in the area of industry, trade and market access.

39. The International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC) has boosted its development partnerships with donors and clients towards small and medium size enterprises export success in developing countries and increased support for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in Africa. ITC continued to implement 15 Enhanced Integrated Framework Window II projects in Benin, Guinea, Lesotho, Malawi, Sao Tomé and Principe, and Senegal.

40. Technical assistance, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework or the Aid for Trade Initiative, remains the core of World Trade Organization support to Africa. The second Global Review of Aid for Trade, held in July 2009, discussed how aid flows can be maintained against the backdrop of a global recession, and highlighted the increasing participation of South-South partners in aid for trade.

41. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is leading a multiagency effort to identify, classify and categorize non-tariff measures in international trade. The UNCTAD Secretary-General's Group of Eminent Persons on Non-Tariff Barriers met in November 2009 and agreed that UNCTAD should collaborate with several regional groupings in Africa to collect and classify non-tariff measures applied by their member countries. An initial contact was established with the East African Community (EAC) to support this effort.

42. UNCTAD is preparing a national study on new and dynamic sectors for Rwanda, as well as assisting Mozambique, Senegal and Zambia to strengthen public policies for fostering the creative economy in Africa. In 2009, two assessment studies were undertaken and validated at national workshops in Zambia and Mozambique on creative industries in order to identify needs and priorities and to recommend strategies to generate employment and income.

43. During 2009 ITC began aligning selected services with those of WTO, UNCTAD and the World Bank. With UNCTAD, alignment has taken place on the Empretec programme, where ITC is also providing enterprise competitiveness training. This is augmented by the ITC partnership with WTO, UNCTAD and the World Bank, which is providing African countries with a comprehensive trade facilitation programme under the Aid for Trade Initiative. ITC, UNIDO and UNCTAD have jointly helped seven least developed countries to develop integrated country programmes for building productive and trade capacities, responding to priority needs identified in the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study for each.

44. UNIDO continued to provide support in the development and the finalization of the implementation strategy of the African Union Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa. At the request of the African Union, UNIDO finalized the development of a resource mobilization strategy; a monitoring and evaluation framework; and steering committee architecture for the Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa. UNIDO implements a number of programmes focused on youth entrepreneurship in Africa. The Mano River Union multi-stakeholder programme for productive and decent work is complemented by programmes in Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal and the Sudan. A number of UNIDO projects and programmes focused on building the

capacities of small and medium size enterprises in Africa, and capacity-building support to Governments for industrial policy review and management.

45. To contribute to the gradual integration of Africa into the world economy, UNIDO is implementing an industrial upgrading programme in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the West Africa Quality Programme in ECOWAS. Achievements to date have included training and certification of 370 national experts and 160 representatives of national institutions in enterprise diagnostics and upgrading, the sensitization of 120 experts to international standards and the training of 300 lab consultants, technicians and quality managers. The East Africa Trade Capacity-Building Programme aims at updating and harmonizing food safety regulatory frameworks, raising awareness on food safety standards/quality issues, developing food chain and risk analysis, and providing inspection surveillance services within the EAC countries.

46. Joint efforts by the African Union/ILO Joint Task Force resulted in the establishment of the Productivity Agenda for Africa and the programme on upgrading the informal economy, as well as measuring progress of the implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation. Following a request from NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, ILO agreed to develop a programme to mainstream employment in all NEPAD programmes through the application of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination Toolkit for mainstreaming employment and decent work. The cooperation between ILO and NEPAD would focus on youth employment.

47. In view of the potential role of diversification in supporting Africa's improved economic performance and resilience, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa prepared a study on economic diversification in Africa, which highlighted the critically important role of government leadership in driving such diversification. Special focus was given to the role of the private sector along with regional structures such as regional economic communities, and the broader international context. Recommendations of the study focused on improved strategies, mechanisms and coordination between stakeholders, together with general capacity-building and targeting an improved business-enabling context. The recommendations of the study were reviewed and finalized at the Expert Group Meeting on economic diversification in Africa held in Addis Ababa in November 2009.

F. Environment, population and urbanization

48. The focus of the cluster is to address the challenges of growing populations and movement of people; rapid growth of towns; environmental degradation; and the lack of demographic statistics. One of the major impacts of UNEP and other partners' support has been the operationalization of the NEPAD Action Plan for the Environment Initiative. This is demonstrated by the finalization of the NEPAD subregional environmental action plans and the development of the National Action Plans. Furthermore, the cluster adds value by institutionalizing an integrated approach, i.e., highlighting the interlinkages between environmental pressures and opportunities, and population and urbanization pressures and opportunities.

49. A good example of the concerted engagement of the cluster in the Climate Change Agenda was in the context of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment special session in Nairobi in May 2009. The outputs of the session included the Nairobi Declaration on the African Process for Combating Climate Change, the Decision on the African process for combating climate change, the draft African Union decision on the African process for combating climate change and the conceptual framework for African climate change programmes. UNEP continues to support the implementation of the decisions of the Conference and its work programme, which is an integral part of the NEPAD Action Plan for the Environment Initiative.

50. UNEP, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, ECA and the African Development Bank (AfDB), organized a series of preparatory meetings for Africa's climate change negotiators and provided the negotiators with substantive technical and policy analysis support to strengthen their preparations for the climate change conference held in Copenhagen in December 2009. This process led to a common and informed negotiating position for Africa and the building of the negotiators' capacity in relevant areas.

51. Through the OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme, UNEP provided capacity-building and specialized technical support to African countries to comply with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. In 2009, the Programme team specifically supported institutional strengthening of various countries in Africa to effectively implement Montreal Protocol activities and assisted countries to establish and implement terminal phase out management plans and accelerate the phase-out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons in line with the decision of the Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

52. UNEP continued to support the implementation of the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production. The main objectives are to strengthen organizational structures to promote sustainable consumption and production in African countries; develop and support projects for implementing sustainable consumption and production methods; support the mainstreaming of environmental education in schools and universities; and promote sustainable procurement by governmental organizations through training courses and awareness-raising. Overall, the activity has led to enhanced expertise and capacity to develop and implement national and local sustainable consumption and production programmes, better preparedness of the African region to participate in and contribute to the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and an increased awareness of sustainable consumption and production and related issues among stakeholders.

53. The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction supports strengthening institutional and technical capacity of the African Union Commission, regional economic communities and their respective member States to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action and the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Strategy has also strongly advocated for disaster risk reduction as an important component of climate change adaptation.

54. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, in cooperation with UNEP, organized an Expert Group Meeting on the theme "Natural Resources, Climate Change and Conflict: Protecting Africa's Natural Resource Base in Support of

Durable Peace and Sustainable Development" in New York in December 2009. The meeting examined the issues of climate change and natural resources conflicts, with special focus on land, water and marine resources, considered particularly vulnerable to climate change. The outcome will contribute to the comprehensive review process of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict (A/52/871-S/1998/318).

55. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) continues to provide substantive backstopping and technical support for phase II of the NEPAD cities programme in three areas of intervention: (i) monitoring of progress of African cities in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in urban areas; (ii) the exchange of knowledge, lessons learned and best practices in pro-poor housing and urban development; and (iii) technical support for the implementation of pilot demonstration initiatives.

56. The regional project "Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zones of West Africa" is a component of the NEPAD Action Plan for the Environment Initiative. The cost of regional activities to be implemented through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in 2009-2010 is $660,000, with national components of $250,000 per country per year. To strengthen ecosystem resiliency along these coastal areas, the project is piloting a range of effective coping mechanisms for reducing the impact of climate change-induced coastal erosion.

G. Social and human development

57. During 2009, the cluster registered strong interaction and coordination among the members of clusters and sub-clusters on the basis of an agreed business plan. Major progress in coordinated response included joint support by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF and WHO to the African Union Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa, and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and UNFPA joint financial and technical support to the Africa-wide campaign against Violence against Women.

58. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has provided support to the African Union to bring together Governments, regional economic communities, and the continental networks of civil society for the third inter-agency meeting on coordination and harmonization of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria strategies. These annual meetings have strengthened partnerships between the African Union, NEPAD, AIDS Watch Africa, regional economic communities, countries and civil society to deliver on Africa's commitments on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and contributed to enhanced interaction among the African Union organs.

59. WHO, in collaboration with partners, has undertaken joint technical action through Harmonization for Health in Africa, a regional mechanism through which collaborating partners[2] provide technical support and capacity-building assistance to countries on a demand-driven basis, through existing development and financing frameworks that draw on a country-led and participatory approach to health policies

[2] AfDB, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and World Bank.

and programmes. Key interventions so far include providing stakeholders with comprehensive communication on progress and country needs for achieving the health Millennium Development Goals; serving as a broker; and facilitating resource mobilization and grant proposal preparation for countries.

60. In addition, on the basis of the Ouagadougou Declaration on Primary Health Care and Health Systems in Africa and its implementation framework, WHO has established a long-term advocacy tool in support of the work of NEPAD to influence the necessary reforms for universal coverage of health services, ensuring that services are people-centered, improving health governance and leadership, and ensuring intersectoral action in addressing the social determinants of health.

61. UNFPA supported the Regional Ministerial Review Conference on the Implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development: ICPD+15, held in Addis Ababa in October 2009. The ministerial meeting endorsed and adopted the draft commitment document, which called for strengthening the enforcement of national laws and the implementation of policies, including gender mainstreaming and budgeting, to advance women's economic, social and political rights; integrating comprehensive HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health programmes, maximizing the use of available resources within health system strengthening, and increasing budgets and programmatic priority for prevention, and incorporating analysis of population dynamics and health impacts in policies, strategies and plans, as part of initiatives for climate change mitigation/adaptation.

62. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with ECA, worked closely to establish a database of the African diaspora in support of the creation of centres of excellence by the African Union/NEPAD. IOM and ECA drafted an ICT programme for selected countries and regional economic communities to create awareness on legal migration and to promote job creation using ICT among the youth, mobile populations and migrant communities in the Horn of Africa.

63. The WHO/UNEP Joint Task Team continued to work towards the implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa, which was adopted during the first Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa, held in August 2008. In 2009, the Team finalized the trial edition of the situation analysis and needs assessment guide as a prerequisite for the preparation of national plans of joint action. The process has led to better collaboration between the Ministries of Health and Environment and to a better understanding of the linkages between health and environment.

64. In the area of health, IAEA support concentrates on the management of cancers, assessment of the efficacy of nutritional intervention programmes, the development of capabilities for nuclear medicine investigations, and control of human communicable diseases. In conjunction with the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy, several African countries are benefiting from IAEA support to establish the integrated system for comprehensive cancer control covering cancer prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment, and palliative care. As a result of IAEA support, 40 radiotherapy centres in 18 African countries have been upgraded and more than 250 radiotherapists, medical physicists, nurses and radiographers have been trained.

65. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) continued to strengthen human and organizational capacity in Africa in order to facilitate the adaptation to the ever changing telecommunications and ICT environment. Policymakers and regulators, corporate executives and senior managers of telecommunication operators benefited from ITU training and human resource development efforts. ITU continued to support the regional Centre of Excellence that offers advanced training to decision makers and senior executives in policy, regulation, management and network architecture.

H. Science and technology

66. The cluster's support focuses on the implementation of the African Union/NEPAD Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, which is built on three interrelated pillars: capacity-building, knowledge production and technological innovation.

67. The work of UNESCO is implemented in close cooperation with the regional economic communities, as science is deemed an appropriate vehicle for enhancing regional integration. UNESCO has created the African Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Initiative to build capacities in policy review and reformulation and provide policy advice to African countries. To date, 20 countries have made formal requests to UNESCO to assist them to carry out national science policy reviews or formulation during the period 2008-2010.

68. UNESCO is working to enhance the ability of the African countries to utilize scientific and technical knowledge and to promote innovation. The Global Microscience Experiments Project promotes education in the basic sciences through the use of microscience kits to enable primary and secondary school pupils to conduct practical experiments in chemistry, biology and physics. To date, introductory workshops for science teachers have been organized in 40 African countries.

69. Capacity-building in nuclear science and technology represents one of the major achievements of IAEA support to NEPAD, with high consideration given to the training of young African women professionals. In 2009, 329 fellowships and 130 scientific visits were granted and 1,230 scientists and technicians participated in regional training courses and technical workshops. Furthermore, under IAEA regional projects, African countries have established sustainable national and regional capabilities in the use of ICT for training and education of nuclear engineers, computer scientists and technicians in the fields of nuclear science and technology.

70. The United Nations University Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU/MERIT) has been cooperating with the NEPAD African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators Initiative by giving advice on how to conduct research and development and innovation surveys in African countries; how to interpret the results; and how to provide access to the data without breaking the statistical rule of confidentiality.

71. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has been helping African countries in integrating intellectual property into national development plans and in formulating appropriate strategies and plans to enable them to take full

advantage of their intellectual property systems for sustainable development. In the area of innovation, promotion and technology transfer, WIPO provided technical support through pilot initiatives to enhance access to, and sharing of patent and other intellectual property commercial and technical information by research institutions and industry groups, digitization and indexing of patent documents.

I. Communication, advocacy and outreach

72. As Chair of this cluster, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa continued to work closely with the Department of Public Information, ECA, the NEPAD secretariat and the African Union Commission to improve commitments and advocacy in support of NEPAD priorities in particular and Africa's development in general. Efforts were made in the period under review to publicize more effectively NEPAD progress in sectors such as infrastructure and agriculture.

73. The Department of Public Information, working closely with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and ECA, participated in the advocacy and communications cluster by promoting understanding of NEPAD through its work with the media in Africa. The Department continued to cover NEPAD in its quarterly magazine, *Africa Renewal*, through stories on challenges and achievements of NEPAD, the global economic crisis and its impact on Africa, the Millennium Development Goals, peace, security and human rights. It also continued to disseminate information about NEPAD and African development topics to targeted media, academics and civil society groups.

74. Over the years, UNIFEM work in promoting the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other women's rights instruments in African countries has contributed to the enactment of gender-sensitive laws and policies guaranteeing women's rights in relation to family relations, inheritance, citizenship, land, access to services, including those related to HIV/AIDS treatment, care and prevention, and protecting women from violence, discrimination and exclusion.

75. UNAIDS advocacy work is focused on mobilizing leadership towards universal access to HIV services and Millennium Development Goals targets. Specifically, UNAIDS collaborates with the leadership of the African Union, AfDB, the Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS, regional economic communities, civil society, the private sector, funding mechanisms such as the Global Fund and bilateral cooperation present in the region (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), French Cooperation, GTZ, AWARE) and the newly established media network on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

76. UNFPA, in collaboration with the African Union, UNICEF and WHO, has contributed to the finalization of the advocacy document for the Campaign for the Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa, launched in Addis Ababa by Africa Union Ministers of Health in May 2009, and approved by the African Union Conference of Ministers of Health. Many countries have started to put in place maternal mortality reduction programmes, and about 12 countries plan to launch the Campaign in 2010.

77. Through its flagship publications, ECA continues to provide technical and policy advice and other advocacy services to Member States. The 2010 Economic

Report on Africa focused on how to reorient growth strategies to promote high and sustainable long-term growth rates to reduce unemployment, with special attention to vulnerable groups. In its fourth edition of Assessment of Progress Regional Integration in Africa, ECA focused on enhancing intra-African trade.

III. Policy issues in the implementation of NEPAD

A. Strengthening of the cluster system and enhancement of United Nations/African Union cooperation

78. The past year has seen further progress in the enhancement of the support provided by the United Nations system for the implementation of NEPAD and the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union, and in strengthening the cluster system.

79. The Regional Coordination Mechanism process has gained further momentum. An increased number of United Nations agencies and organizations are supporting the Regional Coordination Mechanism secretariat based at the ECA headquarters. UNDP, ILO and UNEP continued assisting the Regional Coordination Mechanism secretariat financially and assigning staff to it. The secretariat enhanced the coordination of United Nations agencies in support of Africa's development at the regional and subregional levels; strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and African regional organizations; increased institutional support to the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency. During the period under review, many clusters have met more frequently and more meetings were organized at the African Union Commission.

80. The tenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism was held in November 2009 and was attended by 193 participants. It made key recommendations to bring United Nations system organizations and African regional and subregional organizations closer for increased effectiveness. It was suggested to transform the Regional Coordination Mechanism secretariat into a joint secretariat of the African Union Commission/NEPAD and United Nations system organizations in order to promote greater synergy and coherence among the parties. The meeting also recognized that a subregional coordination mechanism was essential to provide a link between regional-level activities and country-level national priorities, actions and implementation, as well as respond to the needs of the regional economic communities, and urged its establishment in all subregions, taking into account the specificities and the priorities within each subregion.

81. Furthermore, the meeting discussed the review of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union and agreed that the review was an important occasion to further popularize the Programme at the level of the United Nations, African Union and regional economic communities. The meeting urged that regional economic communities should be fully represented in the review process team. It was agreed that ECA, the United Nations Liaison Office and the African Union Commission should undertake the review jointly and mobilize the necessary resources from other United Nations agencies.

B. Support to mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of NEPAD

82. IMF helps low-income countries to achieve macroeconomic and financial stability, promote growth and reduce poverty by providing financial support through financing facilities. The Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility Trust provides for three new concessional facilities, which support country-owned poverty reduction efforts. Sub-Saharan African countries have received over $4.7 billion in debt relief from IMF. Debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) has helped reduce the debt burden of HIPC countries and freed resources for poverty reducing expenditures.

83. UNCDF joined the multi-donor Financing Facility for Remittances, set up by IFAD, and co-financed by the European Union, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor, Luxembourg, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development. The purpose of the Financing Facility for Remittances is to scope out, select and fund innovative approaches that facilitate access to remittance services by the poor. This is particularly true in Africa, where IFAD estimates that the African diaspora contributes about $40 billion in remittances every year, and where the cost of sending money to Africa remains relatively high and subject to wide variations.

84. UNCTAD finalized its investment policy reviews for Burkina Faso, Burundi, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Out of 28 completed reviews, 19 were prepared for African countries. UNCTAD recently assisted countries in implementing their review recommendations. The UNCTAD Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme continued to support 21 countries, strengthening human and institutional capacity to manage debt in an effective and sustainable way. In November 2009, the seventh Debt Management Conference of UNCTAD discussed debt management and public finance with senior debt experts from 34 African countries.

85. FAO has mobilized financial resources under three projects amounting to $10 million to finance technical assistance to NEPAD, the African Union Commission and ECOWAS in translating the national and regional CAADP compacts into operational investment projects and to strengthen the capacities of these continental and regional institutions.

86. The United Nations Global Compact Office launched a new United Nations-business partnership gateway featuring NEPAD primary objectives as a global issue. This gateway allows companies willing to contribute to United Nations activities and projects to browse through a catalogue of humanitarian needs and partnership opportunities, or submit ideas for collaboration.

87. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP), in partnership with the United Nations Foundation and several United Nations agencies, has committed over $62.8 million in funds to a number of development projects in Africa, including supplying measles vaccinations in order to reduce annual global measles deaths by 90 per cent by 2010; malaria prevention activities in refugee camps in 15 African nations; and support for resource mobilization activities for polio eradication in Nigeria.

C. Cross-cutting issues

88. In view of the severe impact of the current global economic and financial crisis, a panel discussion on the theme "Recovering from Global Crisis: Towards an Action Plan for Africa and the Least Developed Countries" was co-organized by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and United Nations University/World Institute for Development Economics Research as a side event to the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, on 25 June 2009. The panel discussion focused on the policy responses of the international community and measures needed to accelerate Africa's and the least developed countries recovery from the crisis. The recommendations of the panel included the establishment of a joint action plan to mitigate the crisis, and reducing dependence on commodities. At the same time, the international community should ensure that it honours the commitments made in support of the development of least developed countries and Africa.

89. In preparation for the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in collaboration with ECA and UNDP, convened the Africa regional preparatory meeting on 8 and 9 March 2010 in Ethiopia. The objective of the meeting was to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, assess the effectiveness of the existing mechanisms for follow-up, monitoring and review, and propose measures at national and regional levels to advance development of least developed countries in the next decade.

90. ECA, jointly with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development launched a report on the mutual review of development effectiveness at the twentieth Summit of NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee. The main objectives of the report are to gauge the extent to which commitments made by Africa and its development partners have been delivered, whether they have produced the desired results and what are now the key future policy priorities.

91. UNFPA provided technical, programme and management support to 14 regional, subregional and national women/gender-focused institutions, organizations and networks, including Africa First Ladies' initiatives. Knowledge and skills of national partners from 29 countries across Africa in gender mainstreaming were improved. UNFPA also technically and financially supported the preparation of the continental gender policy and advocacy workplan for its approval. The African Union produced a draft document of the Africa Continental Gender Policy Action Plan, and national partners from 32 countries were trained in gender responsive budgeting.

92. UNIFEM, UNAIDS, UNICEF and others are supporting the Africa-wide campaign to end violence against women and girls, whose objective is to mobilize commitment to ending violence against women and girls, and to empower women and their communities to stop gender-based violence and demand accountability. UNIFEM launched the Africa regional component in January 2010 at the African

Union Summit in Addis Ababa. The UNiTE to End Violence against Women and Girls campaign in Africa responds to the gap in the implementation of various agreements and commitments of African countries to take action to eradicate violence against women, with the overriding theme and focus on ending impunity with regard to acts of violence perpetrated against women and girls. UNICEF provided technical input to the Africa-wide campaign on violence against women, as well as the preparation of the International Conference on Population and Development +15, held in Addis Ababa in October 2009 and Beijing +15 in Banjul in November 2009.

D. Institutional support

93. During the period under review, FAO assisted NEPAD in the preparation and organization of CAADP country and regional round tables, monitoring compliance by African countries with the Maputo Declaration target of increasing resource allocation to the agriculture sector to 10 per cent of the national budget and organizing meetings and seminars to promote donor support and coordination. FAO institutional support to NEPAD will continue under the different projects that have been recently approved by Spain and Italy towards accelerating CAADP implementation.

94. UNEP finalized in 2009 a small-scale funding agreement with NEPAD for $100,000 to support the review of the implementation of the NEPAD Action Plan for the Environment Initiative. The review will focus on the work undertaken since the implementation of the Action Plan started, including achievements, challenges and lessons learned.

95. The United Nations Office for Partnerships continues to support the African Union on public-private partnerships, especially through a partnership forum at the African Union Summit that would engage private sector leaders and facilitate the participation of African Union representatives in relevant high-level meetings and conferences hosted by the private sector.

96. ILO has helped strengthen the institutional capacity of the African Union Commission in the area of labour and employment and has thus reinforced its capacity for the implementation of the Ouagadougou Plan of Action. ILO provides analytical, policy and technical services, particularly with a view to making employment central to the economic and social policies of the African Union. ILO has also supported the African Union in preparing the first comprehensive report on the implementation status of the African Union 2004 Extraordinary Summit Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa and mechanism for implementation in preparation for continental high-level meetings on the topic.

97. UNFPA, with the collaboration of IOM, supported the African Union Commission and its NEPAD programme in the establishment of the African Union Youth Volunteers Corps, which was endorsed by the 2010 Conference of African Union Ministers Responsible for Youth. UNICEF assisted the African Union and its NEPAD programme to initiate the establishment of the AfricaInfo database. AfricaInfo will be a performance tracking and monitoring tool that will, inter alia, monitor commitments made by African Governments at the special summit of the African Union Heads of State and Government on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and

malaria held in Abuja in 2006, the Pan African Forum on the Future of Children, the Millennium Development Goals and NEPAD.

E. Challenges and constraints

98. Despite progress in providing coordinated support to NEPAD, a number of challenges remain, which include:

- Limited joint planning and programming, with cluster members operating on the basis of their own respective mandates, programming cycles, and funding and reporting systems.
- Constraints owing to the lack of funding to bring policy and capacity-building activities to scale. In particular, there is a lack of mechanisms for joint resource mobilization or joint budgetary contributions.
- Challenges in coordination and information exchange between the different clusters and sub-clusters.
- A lack of focus of cluster activities on current African Union/NEPAD strategic plans and priorities.
- The need to fully mainstream cross-cutting themes such as gender, culture, capacity-building, youth and regional integration into the cluster activities.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

99. **The United Nations system has demonstrated greater commitment in support of the priority areas of the African Union/NEPAD programme through the nine clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism. The support has been in four categories: funding of programmes and projects; technical assistance, capacity- and institution-building; advocacy; and humanitarian relief.**

100. **Development actors, such as civil society, philanthropic foundations, bilateral donors and the private sector, are increasingly present at the country level and providing multifaceted assistance to African countries. United Nations entities should further strengthen collaboration with these non-United Nations players in the design and implementation of programmes.**

101. **The clusters should continue to align and harmonize their activities and priorities with the African Union/NEPAD strategic plans, the African Union/United Nations Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme and other relevant regional priorities. At the same time, United Nations system organizations and agencies should cooperate with the various departments of the African Union Commission, thus allowing the African Union Commission/NEPAD to tap more effectively into the expertise and the resources available from the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the cluster members.**

102. **To make long-term strategic and coherent policy decisions and encourage demand-driven approaches to development, United Nations agencies should support national leadership and ownership where African countries drive their own development priorities.**

103. **As the implementation of the African Union/NEPAD programme is gaining momentum, it is timely for United Nations entities to initiate evaluating and reporting on the impact of their support to NEPAD projects. An effective monitoring and evaluation framework could identify implementation gaps and develop action plans to address them.**

104. **In a globalized economy, the United Nations system needs to prevent the global economic crisis from becoming a humanitarian and social crisis in Africa, with potential political consequences. In bringing together their knowledge, expertise, capacities and comparative advantages, all United Nations entities should formulate a coordinated and collective response that would turn the current crisis into an opportunity for Africa and put African countries on a path to sustainable growth and development.**

105. **The secretariat of the Regional Coordination Mechanism should be transformed into a joint secretariat of the African Union Commission/NEPAD and United Nations system organizations to promote greater synergy and coherence among the parties.**